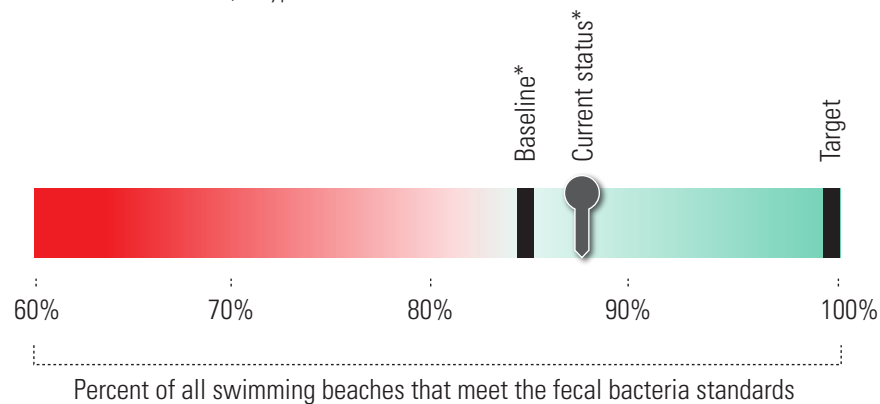


Swimming Beaches

Conditions of swimming beaches

Progress Toward the 2020 Target

To have all monitored beaches in Puget Sound meet EPA standards for what is called *enterococcus*, a type of fecal bacteria.



* The baseline is the percentage of all swimming beaches that met water quality standards in 2004. The status is the percentage in 2012.

Is There Progress Toward the 2020 Target?

There has been some progress toward the 2020 target compared to the 2004 baseline. Furthermore, results show some improvements compared to the last two years.

In 2012, only 12 percent of beaches monitored failed to meet water quality standards. This is down from findings in 2010 and 2011, when 26 percent and 22 percent of beaches did not meet the standards.

Although the majority of monitored swimming beaches have met EPA standards for *enterococci* fecal bacteria, the target of 100 percent has not been met to date. Since 2004, many local bacteria problems have been identified and corrected, but overall there is no clear trend in progress toward the goal.



Table 3.4. Monitoring Results for Conditions at All Monitored Swimming Beaches in Puget Sound

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Number of swimming beaches sampled	68	67	71	62	53	68	46	76	60
Percentage of swimming beaches meeting standards	85	88	80	87	87	78	74	78	88

Source: Washington State Department of Ecology, BEACH program

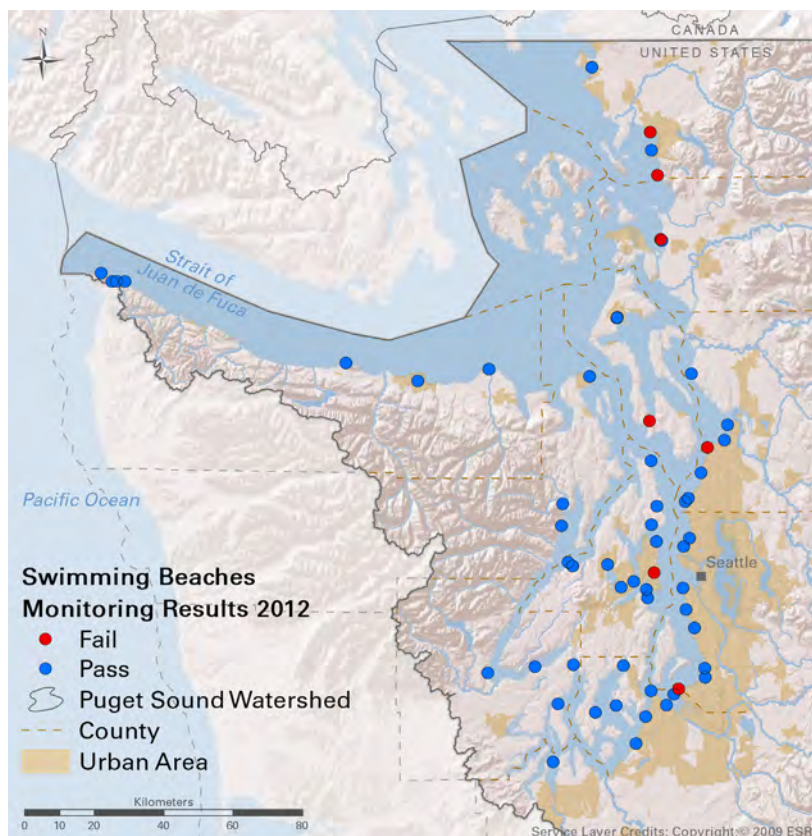


Figure 3.5. Distribution of all monitored swimming beaches, categorized by whether they passed or failed to meet water quality standards during the 2012 swimming season.

Source: Washington State Department of Ecology, BEACH program

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**For more in-depth information,
please see:**

www.psp.wa.gov/vitalsigns/swimming_beaches.php